

Madison County - Idaho

Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Mitigation Plan

Executive Summary And Action Plan

September 14, 2004

Executive Summary And Action Plan

The mission of the Madison County Wildland/Urban Fire Mitigation Program is to promote public policy designed to protect citizens, critical facilities, infrastructure, private property, and the environment from wildfires. The Madison County Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Mitigation Plan develop as a foundational element of the Program, addresses privately held unincorporated urban and rural areas of the county and their interface points with Federal or State Lands such as the Bureau of Land Management or the Caribou-Targhee National Forest.

This Plan establishes an action plan for mitigating the impacts associated with wildfires. If implemented over the next several years, the actions identified in this plan will help reduce the damages caused by wildfire in the wildland/urban interface. However, it is up to the community to ensure that these actions are taken. All mitigation is local and the primary responsibility for development and implementation of risk reduction strategies and policies lies with the identified local and federal jurisdictions. No plan is complete until it is implemented.

The county wildland/urban interface areas were all assessed during the summer of 2004. Based on the findings of the assessment the assessment team geographically organized four (4) areas of risk or vulnerability zones and ranked them according to four criteria; Life Safety, Property Damage, Environmental Damage, and Economic Impact. The listing of the respective zones and the identified mitigation implementing actions are presented below represents a summary of the Madison County Wildland/Urban Interface Mitigation Program Action Plan

East Bench – WUI Vulnerability Zone 1

- ✓ Develop a wildland/urban interface public education program.
- ✓ Develop a fuels reduction program or fire break program in the canyons and draws
- ✓ Apply for grants to procure equipment used for mechanical treatment projects.
- ✓ Develop a year round static water source.
- ✓ Develop an evacuation plan.
- ✓ Develop a plan for improved wildland firefighting ability through increased manpower and equipment.

Heise to North Fork of the Snake River intersection – WUI Vulnerability Zone 2

- ✓ Develop a wildland/urban interface public education program.
- ✓ Develop a fuels reduction program.
- ✓ Apply for grants to procure equipment used for mechanical treatment projects.
- ✓ Develop a year round static water source.
- ✓ Develop an evacuation plan.
- ✓ Develop a plan for improved wildland firefighting ability through increased manpower and equipment.

North Fork of the Snake River Riparian Area – WUI Vulnerability Zone 3

- ✓ Develop a wildland/urban interface public education program.
- ✓ Develop a fuels reduction program.
- ✓ Apply for grants to procure equipment used for mechanical treatment projects.
- ✓ Develop a year round static water source.
- ✓ Develop an evacuation plan.
- ✓ Develop a plan for improved wildland firefighting ability through increased manpower and equipment.

Menan Buttes/West Desert Area – WUI Vulnerability Zone 4 and 4a

- ✓ Develop a wildland/urban interface public education program.
- ✓ Develop a fuels reduction program.
- ✓ Apply for grants to procure equipment used for mechanical treatment projects.
- ✓ Develop a year round static water source.
- ✓ Develop an evacuation plan.
- ✓ Develop a plan for improved wildland firefighting ability through increased manpower and equipment.

An economic analysis was conducted on all mitigation projects identified above. The analysis provides a foundation for the Madison County Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Mitigation Group and the responsible fire districts to begin mitigation project prioritization. While some projects provide an excellent return on investment, other factors must be closely examined in the prioritization process. Life safety issues must always take precedence over costs.